
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 14, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION — MAY 2019

Meeting. The State Board of Education met on May 9, 2019, in Des Moines. The meeting opened with public comment including presentations by students enrolled in Buena Vista University's special education practitioner preparation program.

Director's Report. Director Ryan Wise discussed the recently passed legislation [HF 690](#), which established a children's behavioral health system, and the funding that was appropriated to the area education agencies to support educator training for student mental health. Director Wise also announced a [conference](#) to be held July 16, 2019, to present and discuss best practices for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation Program.

Iowa Learning Online (ILO). Director Wise provided an update on the ILO program. ILO had received appropriations in FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016 and was converted to fee-based funding beginning in FY 2017. The Department of Education had requested an FY 2020 appropriation to sustain the program, but the funding was not approved. Director Wise said the program cannot be sustained on its current funding and will be ending. ILO will operate for one more year to allow participating school districts to transition to other options.

Notice of Intention to Amend Rules for School Buses. The Board approved filing notice of its intent to amend rules regarding school buses. The change in rules would increase the inspection fee by \$10 and expand the requirement for vehicle inspections from school buses to all school vehicles that transport students. An additional rule change would require newly purchased school buses be equipped with lap and shoulder belts.

Legislative Update. Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, provided an update on the end of the session and the recently passed legislation. The Department will be issuing a Letter to the Field to school districts to help districts implement changes required by the enacted legislation.

Administrator Preparation Program. Iowa Professional Leadership Academy (IPLA) is an administrator preparation program for principals provided through the Prairie Lakes and Keystone Area Education Agencies. It is a two-year endorsement program with 16 to 20 participants each session. The program was granted conditional approval allowing the program to continue as alignment to new standards is implemented.

Iowa School Performance Profiles. An update was provided on the planned upgrades to the [Iowa School Performance Profiles](#) site. A new school comparison feature will be available and the following additional data measures will be added:

- Progress on State goals
- Suspension and expulsion information
- Chronic absenteeism rates
- Postsecondary readiness reporting
- Percent of students assessed
- National Assessment of Educational Progress results
- Attendance data
- Staff retention history

Closing Achievement Gaps. An overview of the recent Closing Achievement Gaps [report](#) was provided by Jay Pennington, Chief of the Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. The report includes data on the increasing diversity in Iowa schools and the student achievement gaps for minority subgroups.

Davenport School District. An update was given on the Davenport Community School District (DCSD) and the recent completion of a Phase II visit to the district. Amy Williamson, Chief of the Bureau of School Improvement within the Department of Education, reviewed the Phase II visit report with the Board and answered questions. From the 2018 Department report, two unresolved items of disproportionality in students of color identified for special education services and placement decisions were discussed in regard to how these are systemic issues that will take time to change. New citations were also reviewed. The Board approved the recommendation that DCSD be placed on conditional accreditation and that deadlines and milestones marking progress be provided at the next Board meeting.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the State Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019.

LSA Staff Contact: Lora Vargason (515.725.2249) lora.vargason@legis.iowa.gov

1046765